Daily Report

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Cuba

Aldana in Camaguey; Outlines Media Role

FL181053 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Report from Camaguey by Manuel Cano Iglesias]

[Text] A general characterization of the work of the mass media has been made by Carlos Aldana, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, during his meeting with Camaguey journalists and newspaper editors. The meeting, attended by Lazaro Vazquez Garcia, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and first party secretary in Camaguey Province, turned into a productive exchange of ideas, criteria, and views concerning the media's responsibility in the current stage of socialist construction in Cuba.

Aldana said that all conditions exist to provide continuity to the policy approved at the fifth plenum of the Union of Cuban Journalists. Furthermore, additional conditions exist to enable the media to go on to higher levels. He cited modest achievements and a few mistakes made that can be seen as positive because they help to set the guidelines the mass media should follow in the country's current circumstances. Aldana defined the role of the press as a balancing and controlling factor in society's development. Journalists should not restrict themselves to saying that there's something wrong; they have to say why it's wrong. This requires a large dose of inquisitiveness and a high degree of professionalism.

During his brief visit to Camaguey, Aldana also toured the municipalities of Esmeralda, Sierra de Cubitas, and Carlos Manuel de Cespedes.

Lawyers Union Head on Constitutional Guarantees

FL152240 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1942 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Dr Menelao Mora, secretary general of the National Cuban Lawyers Union, has asserted that our legislation and fundamental law, which is the Constitution, is aimed at guaranteeing human rights.

He noted that bourgeois constitutions acknowledge the peoples' human rights. However, that doesn't mean that those rights are respected inasmuch as, in some countries, this is a farce and a joke.

Dr Mora recalled that our Constitution of 1940 included those rights but we all know that they only benefited the ruling class. He said that in today's socialist Cuba the state guarantees the right to life, work, rest, protection by the social security system, health, education, culture, recreation, sports, and others. This is where true human rights lie.

Labor Committee Head Continues Uruguay Visit

Talks With Sanguinetti

FL151447 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Cuban Labor Minister [title as heard] Francisco Linares was received in Montevideo by Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Linares also met with the director of the Social Security Bank and with the commissions for labor affairs of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

Meets Foreign Minister

FL160005 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Francisco Linares Calvo, minister president of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, was received today in Montevideo by Luis Barrios Tassano, foreign minister of Uruguay, on the 3d day of his visit in the South American country.

Accord on Increased Trade Signed With Mexico

FL151357 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Cuba and Mexico yesterday signed in Mexico City a document increasing bilateral trade.

Alberto Betancourt, Cuban vice foreign trade minister, said that the document establishes preferential treatment of export tariffs on products to and from our country within the framework of ALADI.

Included among the products Cuba will export to Mexico are rum, tobacco, marble, and scrap metal. Imports from Mexico will include chemical, food, and manufactured products.

TV Shows South African Tank Captured in Angola

FL181341 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Cuban combatants in Angola have captured some of the most modern equipment used by the South African enemy in its mistaken war against the Angolan people.

[Begin (Bruson) recording] My name is (Rene Ricardo Bruson). I am a technician with the Cuito Cuanavale tank brigade. On the 25th, I was assigned the mission of bringing back a tank captured from the enemy during an attack it carried out on 23 March. The enemy crossed a minefield in front of the 25th tank brigade. We were assigned to rescue, or rather retrieve, this tank.

I went to the area with an electrician and two mechanics, and we went to work. We crossed the river and reached the spot where the tank was located. We towed it to an

area behind the defense lines of the 25th brigade and began preliminary work to try to start it and bring it back in the best possible condition.

Once we had it ready to be moved to this side of the river, we had an even tougher time of it, because this tank weighs 56 tons. The raft can only carry 52 tons. We were forced to remove the tank's weaponry. We stripped it of ammunition, projectiles—62 of them—and we began to remove the armor plate from the engine so we could make it 5 or 6 tons lighter and the [words indistinct] could transport it. We accomplished this on the third try. We used a new raft. The engineering comrades did a good job in removing all the armor plate. And here we are, with the tank.

This tank is a trophy seized from the enemy. It is a very modern tank, with rather commercialized technology, roominess, size. However, I feel that the size is not right for a modern war. It is too high, too wide. The plates [esteras] are too weak. It does have a good engine and good controls. However, it does not meet the requirements of modern war. It can inspire fear because of its size, but the truth is that we have better technology. [end recording]

Libya Donates Appliances to Child Care Center

FL160315 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Mr Muhammad 'Ali al-Ajili, ambassador of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, has donated five electrical appliances to the Ana al-Qadhdhafi Child Care Center in Marianao. The donation of three fans, two air conditioners, and a recorder was made to this center on behalf of the Libyan people.

During the simple ceremony, the second anniversary of the criminal U.S. bombing of Tripoli was marked. Ana, infant daughter of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, was killed during the bombing.

Solvision Television Center Construction Planned

FL161218 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1152 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Report by Jose Mejilla from Guantanamo]

[Text] At a cost of 1 million pesos, construction will soon begin on the new Solvision television center in Guantanamo. This is part of the social-cultural complex planned for the Mariana Grajales Revolution Square.

The Solvision center will occupy an area exceeding 6,000 cubic meters and will include two studios, one of which will have room for viewing films. It will also have a documentation center in the computer room, social-administrative offices, and technological areas.

The goal of the No 6 construction unit is to finish a third of the general plan. [sentence as heard] The center should be finished by 26 July 1995.

As the construction project begins, Guantanamo communications workers are improving and expanding the transmission network to eliminate the shadow zones which currently comprise 30 percent of the territory.

The new Solvision television center in the Mariana Grajales Revolution Square in Guantanamo is the beginning of an experimental plan that will be extended to its counterparts in other provinces.

Bahamas

Foreign Ministry Satified With Senate Vote

FL181510 Bridgetown CANA in English 2101 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, April 16, CANA—The Bahamas Foreign Ministry has expressed satisfaction with the U.S. Senate's vote in favour of President Ronald Reagan's proposal to certify the Bahamas as a nation "having co-operated fully with the U.S. in its narcotics control efforts."

A Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted on Tuesday to reject the recommendation but the full Senate supported the administration by 54-40.

In approving Reagan's recommendation concerning the Bahamas the Senate noted that the Bahamas allows the U.S. "virtually unrestricted access to its air space and territoral waters in chasing drug smugglers..."

De-certification of the archipelago, the House [as received] noted, would "wreck" that relationship.

Grenada

Gairy Party Postpones Convention for 2 Months

FL181522 Bridgetown CANA in English 1943 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 17, CANA—The opposition Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of former Prime Minister Eric Gairy has announced a two-month postponement in its first convention for many years.

Gairy told CANA that the convention has been put back from April 24 to June 26 but declined to state the reasons for the delay.

Informed sources, however, cited the failure of the party to form the necessary constituency groups.

In addition, the GULP intends to make certain amendments to its newly drawn up constitution.

The sources said that the constitution is not specific on the manner in which the political leader is to be selected and how the voting process should be conducted.

The Labour Party lost power in a 1979 leftist coup d'etat in which Gairy was toppled as prime minister.

In the 1984 polls, it won only one of the 15 parliamentary seats but its candidate has since defected to the National Democratic Congress (NDC).

Public Workers Leader Pledges To Restore Union

FL181527 Bridgetown CANA in English 2024 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 17, CANA—Newly elected President of the Grenada Public Workers Union (PWU) Charlie Francis has pledged to restore the image and credibility of the once vibrant organisation.

The PWU has witnessed a loss of membership to other unions in the face of deep division within its elected leadership.

Francis spoke on Saturday at the PWU's annual general meeting which took place one week after the immediate past president, Basil Harford, had secured a postponement on a constitutional challenge.

Francis acknowledged that the recent long drawn out negotiations which the PWU had with government over salary increases for 1985 and 1986 had left some members unhappy with the union.

"This must not be allowed to continue as a low level of participation among members could only expose the union to abuse and ridicule," he said.

Francis highlighted the need for the union to try and establish a "positive relationship" with government.

Haiti

Holdups by Men in Military Uniforms Reported

FL182217 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1600 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Excerpts] For the past few days we have been receiving reports here at Radio Haiti-Inter that men wearing military uniforms are holding up people in vehicles. These men take everything the people have.

We learned recently of a couple held up at gunpoint at around midnight by a group of armed men wearing olive-green uniforms. The couple was leaving a party near the Chinese Embassy. The men threatened them with a revolver and took everything they had, money and jewelry. One of the people held up told us this. We did not report it because we did not get their statements on tape. Even though they did confirm the report to us, Radio Haiti-Inter did not broadcast it.

However, on Saturday night at approximately 0100, Dr Gerard Bouchereau, his wife, and a friend encountered a group of armed, olive-green-clad men on Delmas 48. Dr Bouchereau told us one of the men was wearing a blue police uniform and carrying a rifle. These people held up the Bouchereau party and took everything they had. [passage omitted]

Roadblocks Set Up To Search for Weapons

FL182122 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Report by correspondent Julio Appolon]

[Excerpts] Last Saturday, 16 April, at approximately 1700, a 30-caliber M-1 rifle, (?serial) No (?26-69-869), was found in a small ravine along National Highway No 2 very close to the outpost the police set up along the road. The rifle was found by civilian Merivil Isaac, who immediately informed the police.

Once informed, Aquin Military District Commander Louis Jacques Baudoin and four soldiers picked up the justice of the peace and had him officially note the incident.

The rifle was found all wrapped up in a sweater. Upon examination the police found it to be unloaded. It had no trigger, which is the part that allows it to fire.

When asked about this incident, the commander said that perhaps someone carrying the rifle dumped it after coming upon a roadblock where vehicles were being searched. The searches are being conducted in many parts of the country because there is a disquieting number of weapons coming into Haiti, he said

After the incident was officially noted by the Aquin justice of the peace, Anthony Dupont, the police took possession of the rifle so they can proceed with the appropriate procedures. [passage omitted]

Automated Customs System Under Consideration

FL182100 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Report by correspondent (Norelus Estima)]

[Excerpt] On Friday, 15 April, a six-member investigating committee from Port-au-Prince arrived in Cap Haitien. The group was headed by Edouard-Vales Jean-Laurent, deputy general director of the General Tax Administration.

Other delegation members were: Mrs Yolene Niquesse, head of the verification department of the General Customs Administration; Mr Roger Magloire, from the Commerce Ministry; Mr Rene Tribert, technical advisor (?to the) director general of customs, Port-au-Prince; Mr Rene Chapin, for the evaluation mission from the French Cooperation (?Ministry); and Mrs Majome Marambert, an expert attached to the UN Development Program.

The delegation's objective was to see to what extent an automated customs system can be installed in Cap Haitien, as part of the Sydonia project. The Sydonia project has been set up to handle customs information using data processing equipment and is managed by the Ministry of Commerce and the General Customs Administration.

Cap Haitien may be brought into the Sydonia project. According to the delegation, they want to install this system in a provincial town and they have chosen Cap Haitien.

The Sydonia system is already in use in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

Foreign Secretary Sepulveda Leaves for Spain

PA171242 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Today Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda left for Madrid at the head of the Mexican delegation that will participate in the 6th Mexico-Spain Joint Intergovernmental Commission. This commission will analyze the economic, commercial, political, and cultural relations between the two countries, as well as technological and scientific cooperation.

Cuban ANPP Secretary Arrives for Talks

FL190124 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2127 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Luis Mendez, secretary of Cuba's National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], said today that Mexico and Cuba will carry out a frontal attack against drug trafficking but the real problem is the vast consumption and great availability of drugs in the U.S. market.

In a news conference at the Mexico City airport, Mendez said that one of the topics that will be discussed at the Mexico-Cuba meeting to be held in Mexico City from 18 to 22 April will be the U.S. Senate's withdrawal of Mexico's certification with regard to the fight against drug trafficking.

Mendez, who is heading an ANPP delegation, said that Cuba and Mexico designate vast sums of economic and human resources to fight the cultivation and production of, and trafficking in, drugs. The real problem is the large consumer market in the United States, he said. This is where the problem of drug trafficking originates for developing countries, added the Cuban official.

In reference to Central America, Mendez said there is a permanent danger a regionalized war will occur because of the U.S. interventionist actions in the area.

Commenting on the effects of Cuba's rectification process in solving its economic and social problems, the ANPP secretary said it has had positive results.

The Cuban legislators were received at the airport by Jorge Montufar Araujo, secretary of the Great Commission of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, and opposition deputies Martin Tavira and Jesus Galvan.

Arevalo States Support for Foreign Policy

PA171234 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 10 Apr 88 p 7

[Article by Hector A. Gonzalez]

[Excerpts] Zapopan, Jalisco, 9 Apr—The Armed Forces support Mexico's Central American foreign policy. This was stated yesterday by National Defense Secretary Juan Arevalo Gardoqui.

The secretary, who presided over an air show by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds squadron, which in 35 years has put on more than 2,833 shows in 52 countries, said he is happy with President Miguel de la Madrid's foreign policy. [passage omitted]

He stated that the Mexican Army does not need new aircraft. He noted that the next defense secretary will have to promote and strengthen the Mexican Air Force. He said that under his administration 25 airplanes were purchased. [passage omitted]

Former Envoy to Soviet Union Issues Statement

PA1804232588 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Apr 88 pp 1-A, 18-A

[Statement by Ricardo Valero Becerra, former Mexican ambassador to the USSR; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] It has been several days since my dismissal as our country's ambassador to the USSR. Beside the terse official communication and the subsequent public announcement, I still do not know what reasons prompted the decision. However, I have tried to ascertain them in the appropriate places. [passage omitted]

As is customary, or as an unwritten rule, the matter could have stopped here and the file have been closed. However, Foreign Relations Secretariat spokesmen have unofficially divulged the content of the above-mentioned note and "leaked" some views that naturally entail value judgments. Perhaps these judgments could serve to clarify the facts and to provide a rational and orderly analysis of the problem. That is precisely what I propose to do, especially now when I obviously do not have a press or public relations office. The truth is that I do not have the time or inclination to even attempt to explain the versions that are being circulated. [passage omitted]

1. The first accusation precisely concerns the matter of an interview. It is said that an EXCELSIOR interview published on 15, 16 March and the topics that were discussed were prompted by a desire for notoriety. [passage omitted]

As for the interview in question, which has given rise to such a disproportionate decision, I clarify that I did not set it up or even propitiate it. [passage omitted]

2. The second argument notes that I have criticized a foreign policy, which, on the contrary, I was bound to defend. In other words, I have been found to have adopted a clearly disloyal attitude. [passage omitted]

More than the other topics mentioned, the point regarding this controversy is very specific. Panama has indeed been left out, although temporarily, from the mechanism for political consultation and agreement to which it belongs while—it is said—that country's domestic developments are observed.

After the Cartagena meeting, the Group of Eight, reduced to seven, has met at least twice. It met in Hamburg and in Canada. There was no Panamanian delegation at any of these meetings. Just recording this incident is cause for reflection and perhaps for the revision of several basic aspects that comprise our international doctrine and Latin America's political and legal culture. Within this context, where are the major principles of the peoples' right to self-determination and nonintervention in the affairs of states to be found? Incidentally, where is our theory of the recognition of governments to be found? However, this topic brings to mind a highly sensitive and current issue. There is a huge risk in subjecting the institutional life of any country to outside judgment. This way, one is ignoring the political process and the grounds on which the legitimacy of a country is based. Recently, a great deal of attention has been paid to something referred to as a hardening of the language [endurecimiento del lenguaje]. However, that is not the issue. We are not facing a problem involving assessments or the intensity of speech. Instead, this is a problem of deciding clear stances when historic gains and strategic interests are at stake; when foreign properties and checking accounts are embargoed or canceled; when military soldiers and planes are deployed with the objective of threatening and intimidating; when it is openly admitted that the options under review abroad for a solution include the kidnapping of a political figure. [passage omitted]

3. Another reason used is that this situation did not just happen but, instead, a loss of confidence had been noticed for a long time. If that were the case, there is no explanation why the "problem" was not stopped when it arose. This way, the bad repercussions of the problem would have been avoided or lessened. [passage omitted]

4. Similarly, they also mention statements I made a few months ago. It is, of course, not suitable to repeat or to recall all the topics discussed and the proposals presented on that occasion. It is important to say that it was a roundtable to discuss Mexico's political modernization, promoted by the PRI Ideology Commission and the PRI Secretariat for Political Training. On that occasion, the possibility of disseminating the text was also blocked, although the participating organizations included it in the roundtable statement. I made those statements among sectors that should be open to progressive ideas and criticism. I truly wish that censorship were an exceptional circumstance and not a syndrome of intolerance and paralysis. [passage omitted]

5. It was said that the lack of trust in me also comes from my personal links with Cuauhtemoc Cardenas and Porfirio Munoz Ledo [former President Lopez-Portillo's political, economic, and social development adviser]. This is what they consider the most serious and harmful fault. I must say that I do not have any fear or difficulty in admitting that in fact and fortunately I maintain an old and valuable friendly and political relationship with those gentlemen. I am not like those who hide part of their lives or resumes, because they feel some data could harm their current aspirations. I would not add or eliminate one single line from my modest, but fitting, resume. After having said this, I want to add that I have not joined—in a shameful and surreptitious manner—the Democratic Current, through which the aforementioned Mexicans and others have committed their participation in the country's political life. [passage omitted]

6. Similarly, it has been said that during my interview I released confidential information. Because this is a very delicate issue, the only thing I would like to say is that no one has taken the trouble to tell me what specific information I disclosed or when and how that information was used. [passage omitted]

7. It is also said that my comments involved other countries located both to the north and south of Mexico and that my comments therefore jeopardize the positive development of our international relations. I appreciate the importance they grant me, but it is obvious to me that a circumstantial opinion has been given a universal scope. Like any thought presented with arguments and with good will, I believe my statements deserved an intelligent comment or a careful examination, but not a sanction. [passage omitted]

8. There are other accusations that spring from independent opinions and comments which, although I do not share them, I respect. One of those accusations clearly deals with the question of freedom of speech. [passage omitted]

Everything indicates that the exercise of freedom of speech is only acceptable insofar as people express minor criticism or praise. When a true critical spirit is used, however, it is usually condemned or repressed. That is really the core of the problem, and each person should assume his or her responsibility now that the die is cast.

9. The other aspect deals with the idea people have of public employees and their duties. [passage omitted]

The incident in which I am involuntarily and surprisingly involved has reaffirmed my vocation and convictions. From any post I may have in the future, I will continue struggling to make our actions commensurate with our heritage and the true feelings of our nation. [passage omitted]

Assistant Secretary on Selling Enterprises

PA151609 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Report by Regina Aguirre]

[Text] Eng Alberto Escofet Artigas, assistant secretary of mines and basic industry in the SEMIP [Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industries], has asserted that only 7 of the 176 enterprises controlled by the

government will not be sold. The seven enterprises will not be sold because the government considers them indispensable for the country's economic and industrial development.

Escofet Artigas was interviewed at Mexico City's international airport. He said that only SIDERMEX [Mexican Iron and Steel Company], Blast Furnaces of Mexico, SICARTSA [Lazaro Cardenas-Las Truchas Steel Complex], PERSIMEX [expansion unknown], Mexican Sugar Mill, Mexican Phosphoric Rock Company, and Mexican Coal Mining Company—with its subsidiaries—will remain under government control.

Escofet Artigas, who was waiting for the arrival of Moshe Shahal, Israeli minister of energy and infrastructure, said the liquidation of nonpriority enterprises will help reduce the parastate industry's high costs and clear the nation's finances.

The assistant secretary also said Aeromexico must continue operating minus 13 airplanes, because this is the only way to operate profitably.

Aeromexico Files for Bankruptcy; Factors Cited

FL161557 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0428 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 15 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The management of Aeromexico de C.V. has filed for bankruptcy with the appropriate legal authorities. This demonstrates the unbearable situation they are confronting.

A communique issued by the Communications and Transportation Secretariat indicates that this situation is the result of several factors. One of the outstanding factors is the diversity of its fleet, which resulted from the integration of 25 different firms over several decades. Other factors include the relationship between labor and (?legitimate interests) and administrative faults which together have made viable solutions difficult to achieve. The economic condition the country has experienced since 1982 and factors that have deteriorated service, which have caused irritation and discontent among users, have also contributed to Aeromexico's problems. [passage omitted]

The labor conflict the enterprise is now confronting has resulted in a loss of more than 15 billion pesos (more than $6,521,00) during the past few days. This has broken the delicate economic balance of the firm and its chances for continued operation. It has also resulted in the cancellation of its financial commitments. [passage omitted]

Belize

UK Provides Assistance to Defense Program

FL160030 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] The British high commissioner on behalf of the British Government has presented a check to the Ministry of Defense. The acting permanent secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Mr (Edmund Zuniga), accepted a check in the amount of 200,000 pounds for the military assistance program.

The British High Commissioner Mr Peter Thompson, CBE, said that he was pleased to present the check as it is for the development of the Belize Defense Force. Permanent Secretary (Zuniga) accepted the check on behalf of the Ministry of Defense, the Belize Defense Force, and the Government of Belize.

Present at the handing-over ceremony held at the office of the Ministry of Defense were the assistant secretary of the Ministry of Defense, Mr (Bob Belail), and Lieutenant (Peter J. Parshou) of the Belize Defense Force.

The military assistance program fund was formerly gotten from the Government of the United States.

El Salvador

Colonel Doubts FMLN To Cease Using Violence

PA162055 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] In an interview for this newscast, Colonel Natividad de Jesus Caceres Cabrera, Sonsonate Military Detachment commander, said it is unlikely the FMLN will stop using armed violence because they are being paid in dollars.

[Caceres] "It would be very difficult for the FMLN to openly and publicly agree to put their weapons aside at a negotiating table and before the media because, as we all know, they have a mission in El Salvador. And, as we all know, the FMLN leaders are being paid in dollars."

The high-ranking military chief agreed to hold talks to find solutions, but he said that until now only the FMLN has taken advantage of this instrument, using it to create a false image of its power abroad.

[Caceres] "They have created an international image of being strong. They have painted a picture that they have a great deal of support in El Salvador, but this is not the case. Blowing up electricity towers and telephone poles and booths does not mean having strength. Experts in this matter know that this actually demonstrates great weakness."

Col Caceres said that achieving peace in the country will depend on whether nonviolent sectors take responsibility.

[Caceres] "If we do not all truly come together with peace as our one goal, and if each one makes isolated efforts, it will be difficult for us to be successful."

With regard to the Nicaraguan agreements, Caceres said that the entire plan consists of grouping the contras in order to place them at the Sandinists' mercy and then request a similar grouping for the FMLN in El Salvador, because they [not further identified] know the Salvadoran Army would respect the agreements.

Villalobos Comments on U.S. Policy in Region

PA162339 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Apr 88

["Article" written by FMLN Commander Joaquin Villalobos, member of the FMLN General Command]

[Excerpts] When President Reagan began his first term in office in 1981, there was tense expectation over what his warmongering policy would represent for the world, the Central American region, and particularly for our country, El Salvador. The Reagan administration tried to maintain its imperialist policy throughout the world with extremely ambitious and dangerous goals. Now, almost 8 years later, we see new tensions mounting, and the results of his errors could complicate matters even further. [passage omitted]

The current U.S. Administration began its low-intensity war and counterrevolutionary actions in Central America with two basic goals: to disrupt the Sandinist people's revolution and to prevent a revolutionary victory in El Salvador. In order to reach these goals, the United States set up a tremendous and spectacular war machine in the region by occupying Honduras with its own military and mercenary forces, increasing fourfold the Salvadoran Army, and investing nearly $3 billion in 8 years to try to defeat the FMLN. [passage omitted]

In El Salvador, the situation is [words indistinct], the FMLN defeated, the [words indistinct] people, and the political presence and the military ineptitude only continues being a dream [as heard]. The United States thought that genocide would perhaps lead to several decades of calm in the people's struggle. However, now it turns out that the war has expanded, it has become [words indistinct] complex and difficult. The people's struggle has become reactivated and has accelerated. Duarte and the elections—which were supposed to be the magic formula for covering up the genocide—are worn out, wiped out plans that, no matter how much is said, are like medicine turned into poison. It did not help the Army at all to murder 60,000 Salvadorans, to displace 1 million people, to invest $3 billion, and to lead the country into the worse economic and political dependency in our nation's history.

However, there is more to this. It is not just that they did not resolve problems in Nicaragua and in El Salvador; now there are serious complications in Panama and Honduras. Now, we wonder: Are the Sandinist people's revolution and the Salvadoran revolutionaries responsible for setting the region on fire with war, or is it the blind warmongering policy of the Reagan administration, which does not realize that he who sows winds harvests storms? Or is it using Honduras and trying to fit Panama into its war plans? This would certainly not be praised and would not bring peace to those countries.

Although unfortunately imperialist policies always react late, the truth of the matter is that Reagan tried to win two wars in Central America when he began his term in office, but now he is about to have four wars in Central America. [passage omitted]

We have repeatedly voiced our willingness to find a national solution to the Salvadoran problem. We have presented proposals for a political solution and for ending the war. The Reagan administration, through the counterinsurgency government, is determined to destroy and to wipe out our FMLN. That is useless. Its rabid anticommunism does not allow it to realize the truth, and that is that without U.S. assistance, the government would not survive. Therefore, the government's livelihood is artificial, and the FMLN cannot be destroyed by foreign forces. This means that there is an internal correlation of forces that necessitates a negotiation of political and military power. It is illogical to suppose that this being a historic moment, and military power being the key for a correlation of forces, one of the parties would accept being under the leadership of the other. That is unrealistic. Esquipulas II is an indicator that Central America is tired of U.S. intervention. [passage omitted]

Our peoples want independence and necessary, profound social changes. It is completely false that independence and social changes for our peoples threaten U.S. security interests. Instead, independence and social changes would bring about stability and peace in the region, economic development, and stronger markets, which would benefit other countries in the Americas that also need independence and changes in their relationship with the United States. [passage omitted]

FMLN Issues Instructions To Protect Civilians

PA170240 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Apr 88

["Instructions for the civilian population" issued by the FMLN in El Salvador on 15 April]

[Text] The war the country is experiencing is increasingly complex. Areas of conflict are found in all 14 departments and include cities. Military actions are likely to increase in the next few months.

The FMLN issues the following instructions for the civilian population in an effort to minimize the consequences of the war on the civilian population.

1. Civilians and newsmen must not board Army helicopters or any other kind of Army aircraft under any circumstances.

2. The civilian population must avoid traveling on military vehicles both in cities and in the interior.

3. While traveling, civilian vehicles must keep a distance of at least 50 meters between them and military vehicles and convoys to avoid ambushes.

4. Civilians must avoid living in houses located within 50 meters of Army quarters and garrisons.

5. Civilians must avoid getting near military rallies both in the cities and in the interior, because those rallies can be attacked at any place or time.

6. The civilian population must avoid getting near or attending exclusive recreation centers as well as expensive bars and restaurants, the regular clients of which are U.S. and Salvadoran military personnel and members of the Christian Democratic Party or ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance].

7. Civilians must not serve as guides for Army patrols in rural areas under any circumstances.

8. The civilian population inhabiting areas of conflict must follow the instructions given by the FMLN members in charge of the various zones during Army operations.

9. The transporting of military personnel must be avoided.

10. During transportation stoppages, vehicles used by the press and humanitarian organizations must travel at a low speed, place visible and clear signs on the sides of their vehicles, and follow FMLN instructions.

FMLN, El Salvador, 15 April 1988

FMLN Denies Link With Honduran Violence

PA161946 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 14 Apr 88 p 2

[Unattributed article]

[Excerpts] Today the FMLN denied any involvment in the peoples protest and attack on the U.S. Consulate in Honduras, in which five people were killed and considerable damage was caused to the diplomatic offices. The FLMN asserted that those actions are the expression of the Honduran people's rejection of "U.S. intervention."

In statements to "Radio Venceremos," FMLN leader Commander Salvador Guerra claimed that the [claims of] FMLN involvement in the attack resulted from the false accusations by Honduran President Jose Azcona, who blamed the FMLN for the serious incidents.

Guerra said: "Those incidents express the Honduran people's rejection of the disrespect the Honduran Government and the Reagan administration have for Honduras' sovereignty, and Azcona's accusations are false and tendentious, because Hondurans reacted in rejection of U.S. intervention." [passage omitted]

In the same "Radio Venceremos" broadcast, Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, known as "Commander Maria," FDR-FMLN political-diplomatic commission member, said that type of action is the result of Washington's "interventionist policy" in Central America. Besides referring to the incidents in Honduras, where U.S. bases are located, Commander Ana Guadalupe said the "interventionist policy" has led the Nicaraguan people to prepare for and "defend their revolution in view of the aggression."

Commander Ana Guadalupe added that the U.S. determination in El Salvador and the counterinsurgency plan carried out by the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the Christian Democracy "have developed the FMLN to the point where it has become the most powerful guerrilla movement in Latin America, and it has created an unrestrainable peoples organization."

Former Priest Arrested for FMLN Ties

PA171530 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2100 GMT 15 Apr 88

[National Guard Press Department report]

[Text] A former priest accused of handling the FPL [People's Liberation Forces]-FMLN finances in the metropolitan area was arrested by National Guard members on 13 April near the Flor Blanca neighborhood in San Salvador.

According to the official report, he was arrested thanks to the information provided by terrorist Maria Margarita Velado Fuentes de Zamora, also known as Mariana. She was arrested last week by the National Guard as she left a meeting with another terrorist in a San Salvador restaurant.

The former priest was identified as 46-year-old (Vicente Antonio Sibrian Guardado), also known as Israel or Jorge. According to his own statement, he left the priesthood in the beginning of 1980 to work with the FPL masses in the Cabanas rural area. In May 1980, he went to Chichontepec Volcano, Cerro San Pedro, and the San Vicente Department coastal area, where for 5 years he was involved in this same work. In mid-1985, Commander Miguel assigned him to similar work in the general area of Guazapa, specifically with the masses in the El Salitre camp.

He added that beginning in August 1986, the terrorist group, through Commander (Monte), ordered him to go to the metropolitan area to be in charge of the finances and the activity dealing with the entry and departure of the terrorists who are sent to Cuba and Nicaragua and who are described as scholarship students. They are provided with enough money for their stay in San Salvador and the necessary immigration documents. He said that as soon as he began handling the finances, he received large sums of money ranging from $40,000 to $70,000 a month. He said the money was given to him through contacts between Guatemala and San Salvador. On a monthly average, he had to take care of 8 to 10 terrorists who were staying in the metropolitan area. He added that his actions were under a terrorist named Humberto to whom he gave reports on income and expenses every month. At the time of his arrest, the authorities found 1,300 colons and $1,000 in his possession. He said most of the money he received was sent through international solidarity but that it was diverted by the FMLN commanders to finance their own terrorist activities.

When asked about Mariana or Maria Margarita Velado Fuentes de Zamora, who gave the information that led to his arrest, the former priest said she replaced him whenever he had to go outside the city and that she was under his direction. He said they had instructions to meet at least every 2 weeks.

Concerning his activities with the masses, he said he only participated by analyzing the most important events in the metropolitan area in which the FMLN front organizations participated.

He recounted that he was ordained in 1971 in Guanajuato, Mexico, and that when he returned to El Salvador that same year, he was appointed to the San Vicente diocese. He was removed from there in 1972 and appointed parish priest of [name indistinct] in La Paz Department. In 1977, he was appointed to Victoria, Cabanas Department. That is where he decided to leave the priesthood and join the FPL. He said the church authorities believe he is a missing person.

The former priest was handed over to the San Salvador Second Criminal Court today.

Guatemala

Death Squad Reactivated by Returned Exiles

PA180206 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1827 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 17 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemala's White Hand [Mano Blanca] anticommunist death squad announced its reactivation today "against the new Marxist avalanche" in that country.

A communique distributed in the form of a flyer accused the ruling Guatemalan Christian Democracy of "fostering the installation of a communist dictatorship" in the country. The communique added that for that reason, the ruling party "is creating the conditions for the return to the country of all the murderers who want to put us in the hands of international communism by hiding behind the ill-named democratic opening. Rather than a democratic opening, this is communist infiltration at the highest levels of government."

This reaction was prompted by news of tomorrow's arrival of a mission of the United Representation of the Guatemalan Opposition (RUOG) from Costa Rica. The RUOG was organized in 1982 by exiled Guatemalans. The mission comprises Rigoberta Menchu, Rolando Castillo Montalvo, Frank Larrue, and Marta Gloria de Torres.

Rigoberta is the daughter of Vicente Menchu, leader of the Committee of Peasant Unity (CUC). He was one of the 31 people killed when the Guatemalan police stormed the Spanish Embassy on 31 January 1980. Castillo Montalvo was the dean of the San Marcos National University's Medical School. He had to leave the country after his life was threatened by ultraright-wing groups. Labor lawyer Gloria de Torres and Frank Larrue are some of the Guatemalan intellectuals who chose to go into exile when death squad activities worsened between 1966 and 1980.

The RUOG members' return to Guatemala has the sole purpose of "observing conditions for their permanent return to the country and the return of more than 20,000 Guatemalans who are in exile." They plan to spend 6 days in Guatemala. The group will also attempt to examine the security conditions that 40,000 Guatemalans now living as refugees in Mexico, Canada, the United States, and Europe can expect to find if they return. The RUOG group's activities in Guatemala will include meetings with civilian and religious officials and with union, peasant, and popular groups' leaders. [passage omitted]

Two Opposition Leaders Arrested at Airport

PA1804202388 Paris AFP in Spanish 1955 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Apr (AFP)—Today two Guatemalan opposition leaders, Indian Rigoberta Menchu and lawyer Rolando Castillo, were arrested by the authorities upon their arrival at La Aurora International Airport after several years of exile.

The leaders were arrested after getting off a commercial plane that brought them from Costa Rica to Guatemala.

Court Orders Release

PA1904034988 Paris AFP in Spanish 0230 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Apr (AFP)—Tonight a Guatemalan court ordered the release of two opposition leaders, who were arrested by the police today upon their arrival in the country after 6 years in exile.

Rigoberta Menchu, an Indian, and Rolando Castillo Montalvo, former dean of the School of Medicine at the state university, "were released this evening," AFP was told by an official of the court where the two were interrogated for several hours.

Shortly after the arrest, the interior minister said that the two leaders of the United Representation of the Guatemalan Opposition (RUOG) had been detained in order to "clarify their legal status."

Nicaragua

H. Ortega on Joint Communique, End of Talks

PA1904004888 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2302 GMT 18 Apr 88

[News conference held by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega with unidentified reporters; place not given—live]

[Text] [Ortega] We have just concluded the meeting that we began on the 15th. Before continuing, we will announce the communique, which we agreed would be publicized today. A copy will be given to you. Comrade [name indistinct] will read the communique:

[Speaker] This is the joint communique. The high-level delegation of the constitutional Government of Nicaragua and the high-level delegation of the Nicaraguan Resistance, meeting in Managua on 15, 16, 17, and 18 April, with the purpose of complying with the 23 March Sapoa agreements, report the following:

1. Throughout the talks, we learned directly and frankly of the different views regarding the fulfillment of the commitments contained in the 23 March 1988 Sapoa agreements.

2. With the purpose of expediting the execution of this agreement, the high-level delegations have declared themselves in permanent session and have established 28, 29, and 30 April as the dates to continue the high-level negotiations in Managua.

Managua, 18 April 1988

[Ortega] Well, as you can see in this communique, we are in permanent session. This means that until we meet here again in Managua, each delegation will continue for its part to work on the different aspects we have discussed during these working days in our search to completely fulfill the Sapoa agreements to secure a definitive cease-fire. We are sure that with our delegation's efforts to broach these tasks, with our efforts throughout this process to totally comply with the Sapoa agreements, we have been in favor of contributing in a definite, responsible manner so reason will prevail in this negotiating process and so we can reach a permanent cease-fire. This cease-fire would fulfill the Nicaraguan people's desire and the desire of the peoples of the region

and of the world that we end this war of aggression that the U.S. Administration has unjustly imposed against our nation, against our people, against our workers, against our peasants, against our youth, and against the Nicaraguan people's dignity and pride.

We are certain that these Sapoa agreements will be successfully fulfilled, because they are based on the sacrifice of our peoples, on the sacrifice of our combatants, on the sacrifice of our women, our children, and our elders, who have been the direct victims of the U.S. Government's terrorist policy of aggression.

We also feel sure that all our soldiers, our officers, the members of our Army, our Interior Ministry personnel, our militiamen, and our reserves will continue to maintain a watchful attitude, carrying their rifles with steady hands to dissuade the enemies of peace and of the Sapoa agreements from continuing their warmongering, blackmailing policies to deepen the conflict the United States has imposed on the region, particularly against our fatherland and our people.

We feel sure that our peace-loving people, with weapons at the ready, will be able to repel the aggressive U.S. policy. We feel sure that they will be able to repel the warmongers and terrorists who are desperately trying to destroy this peace process started in Sapoa. And we feel sure that the Nicaraguan Government, our delegation, will continue to defend and to do its utmost for the successful culmination of the talks with the achievement of the lasting peace that our people desire so much and that all the peoples of the world urge.

Any questions?

[Reporter] Have there been any other agreements that could be revealed here [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] The main thing is, as we said in our communique, that we are in permanent session. If we keep on working with a sense of responsibility, with a practical sense, to find solutions to those problems that are in the process of being resolved, then, at the next high-level meeting, we will be able to satisfactorily negotiate, within the framework of the Sapoa agreements, the various problems we have been analyzing, discussing, and attempting to find negotiated solutions to all this time.

These are the problems we are all acquainted with and that, as far as our government is concerned, we are attempting to resolve to fully comply with the process for reaching a final cease-fire.

[Reporter] General, can you really hope to ever reach an agreement with a delegation from such a fragmented counterrevolution, a delegation that really does not seem to represent the contra military forces?

[Ortega] The significant thing here is that the signatories of the Sapoa agreement, by being present at this negotiating process and by being willing to continue the meeting in permanent session through 28 April, have continued to act with such a sense of responsibility. Now we are getting closer to an agreement that will allow us to counteract the provocations and the warmongers who are trying to jeopardize the peace process. But eventually those warmongers will be left isolated [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Could these talks be considered a failure because what at the beginning seemed a sure thing—an agreement for the counterrevolutionares to start withdrawing to the designated zones—has not been accomplished?

[Ortega] Today, 18 April, it has not even been 1 month since we signed the Sapoa agreements. This is not a car race. This is not a race like those at Indianapolis, where one drives 180, 200 miles per hour to reach the finish line. It is logical that the Nicaraguan Government's interest is to reach a negotiated agreement as soon as possible that will allow a permanent cease-fire. One cannot expect to find solutions to such complex problems overnight, however. In this regard, the mere fact that we declared a permanent session and established a date for another meeting to continue to seek solutions to the problems derived from the Sapoa agreement evidently is an accomplishment, not a failure.

[Reporter] General, when you speak about those in the counterrevolution who maintain a warmongering policy, are you referring to Enrique Bermudez? Could you be a little more specific about whom you are referring to?

[Ortega] We refer to all those close to Enrique Bermudez, who so far has not shown himself willing to give support to and comply with the Sapoa agreement.

[Reporter] Yesterday Major General Cuadra said that you were seeking a clear definition from the counterrevolutionaries who were really interested in a permanent cease-fire to eliminate the suspicion that you had concerning [words indistinct]. Are you really convinced that they are, in effect, looking for a lasting peace?

[Ortega] In fact, we are in a process of negotiation and discussion of such problems as these, to which concrete solutions must be found. Specific agreements must be reached. This is a matter we hope will have a clear solution at the next meeting.

[Reporter] General, in addition to setting a date for the next meeting, what are the other accomplishments of this 4-day meeting?

[Ortega] The biggest accomplishments of this 4-day meeting were to be able to deeply explore the various aspects related to reaching a final cease-fire, in accordance with the Sapoa agreements. Various aspects of the negotiating process have been discussed—aspects such

as the modus operandi, the integrated process suggested by the government, and so forth. We were able to discuss a variety of issues that we feel have served as a sort of solid preparation to more quickly reach a permanent agreement. For our part we are maintaining such an attitude, and we feel that this meeting has been a productive one in this regard.

[Reporter] General, what were the hardest or most difficult aspects discussed at the meeting?

[Ortega] Generally, it cannot be said that one aspect is more difficult than another. During a discussion, aspects can be more or less complex. All matters related to the Sapoa agreements are complex and require deep analysis and discussion. Sometimes solutions cannot be found for a problem that may look simple [words indistinct] of an operative nature, such as the modus operandi, which has greater implications than [words indistinct]. It cannot, therefore, be said that one aspect is easier than another, because matters that may look simple at a given moment may appear very complex at some other time.

[Reporter] General, from your point of view, what was the great obstacle in reaching an agreement, at least on modus operandi, during these negotiations?

[Ortega] I will not reveal to you the greatest obstacle, but I can tell you what obstacle had to be overcome so that the meeting could take place; that is more important. We overcame warmongering policies and CIA pressures to thwart the meeting. Despite these obstacles, the process has started to make progress. We have met, regardless of whether there have been delays; and now we have decided to try to find a solution to our problems.

[Reporter] General, let us suppose that an agreement for modus operandi in enclaves is not reached at the next round of meetings, during the coming weeks, or after a 20-day period, and that the contras decide they need air supplies. What would the Sandinist Armed Forces' reaction be if this happens?

[Ortega] I think we should not be pessimistic. We cannot speculate about what could happen in the future. I can tell you that, in accordance with the Sapoa agreements, we are seriously working toward attaining a negotiated agreement at the next meeting.

[Reporter] General, many demonstrations have been organized in the country during the past 2 days. It seems to me that their slogan is [words indistinct]. Does this not go against the spirit of dialogue to attain lasting peace? My question is: What do these demonstrations mean? Do they indicate that there are differences between the Sandinist delegation that is holding the dialogue and the Sandinist rank-and-file, or are the demonstrations an indication of [words indistinct] on the part of the government?

[Ortega] These demonstrations do not imply differences. They are simply a spontaneous and massive reaction by the people, who passionately and stridently demand peace. This demand is answered by our efforts to attain peace through a political decision that will allow war to end by reintegrating into civilian life the forces that have been manipulated by U.S. policies of aggression. Our people are wise. Our people are revolutionary. Our people are anti-imperialist. They know who finances and directs this war of aggression. They know who manipulates those Nicaraguan sectors that have taken up arms. Our people know that the U.S. Administration is the responsible party.

[Reporter] General, does the fact that an agreement was reached Sapoa and that now there is a cease-fire mean there is a trend toward peace and that there is a process that favors peace, regardless of the position of the sectors [words indistinct] of the contras?

[Ortega] Of course, it is called a halt to offensive operations. This has undoubtedly had an impact on those groups who have been manipulated and who now do not want the war to continue. Furthermore, the most reactionary U.S. sectors with the most aggressive and provocative policies have taken a firmer stand in favor of ending the war since the signing of the Sapoa agreements. The sectors most affected by this unjust war are also voicing this opinion.

[Reporter] General, I want to ask a question, even if I am asking ahead of the foreign correspondents.

[Ortega] Go ahead; there is no problem.

[Reporter] I wanted to ask you, Commander: You say that the one mainly responsible for the military aggression against Nicaragua is the U.S. Government. Is it really possible to reach a definitive cease-fire with the counterrevolutionary forces, regardless of the United States?

[Ortega] The important thing is to make an effort. The worst effort is that left undone. We are obliged, for the sake of peace, for the sake of our people's welfare to do everything humanly possible to achieve peace. If we cannot, our people will at least realize that the government acted responsibly. Then, with more determination than ever, we will take up our rifles to end this problem through that path.

[Reporter] General, what is happening at this moment on what has traditionally been the battlefield between the contras and the Army, and what specific orders have been given to the soldiers regarding the counterrevolutionary troops?

[Ortega] Well, offensive operations have ceased and strict measures have been maintained on the part of our Army to totally comply with the commitments. Of course, this has been done without losing the sense of

vigilance, especially on all those groups that act against the spirit of the process to which the Sapoa agreements commit us. I will take one more question.

[Reporter] General, the government delegation advised the contra delegation that it perhaps wanted them to send military representatives of a higher level than those sent this time. If that is the case, did they communicate [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] They will appoint their delegation as they see fit. Undoubtedly, the attendance of higher-level delegations could permit us to more rapidly surmount the problems.

Calero Announces Contras To Release Captives

PA1804213988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Top mercenary leader Adolfo Calero has announced that all of the people kidnapped by the mercenary forces will be released. Calero made the announcement after a meeting with members of the Episcopal Conference, which was attended by all the top mercenary leaders.

Calero claimed he did not know how many prisoners are being held by the mercenary forces, but said they will all be released as soon as possible.

[Begin Calero recording] The current level of national reconciliation has resulted from the initiatives of his eminence and the Nicaraguan bishops, who always preached brotherly love. They were the ones who first called for a dialogue, and today, upon their request and to demonstrate our willingness to achieve a national reconciliation, we are announcing that we will release all of the prisoners in our power. [end recording]

Ortega Links Opposition Aid, Embargo Lifting

PA1904032088 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0242 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 18 Apr (REUTER)—Today Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega urged the United States to lift its 3-year-old trade embargo, while the Nicaraguan Government and the contra rebels were agreeing to continue peace talks here next week.

Ortega accused President Ronald Reagan's government of trying to block the Nicaraguan peace process and warned that if the talks do not produce an agreement, the government will act rapidly to wipe out the rebels.

"If the talks are unsuccessful because of the Yankee administration's policy of aggression, we must be prepared to do what we have always said we would do," Ortega told a gathering of thousands of government supporters.

"All Nicaraguans will leave factories, schools, and offices to go to the front to defeat the mercenary forces once and for all," Ortega said to the crowd's ovations. Ortega said if President Reagan extends the trade embargo after 1 May, Nicaragua will no longer permit "a single cent" in U.S. aid to be given to any Nicaraguan opposition group. [passage omitted]

Contras Attack Peasant Settlement, Kill 4

PA181452 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Excerpt] A group of 30 counterrevolutionaries attacked a peasant settlement in northern Nicaragua Saturday evening, killing four people—including two children—injuring two, and kidnapping one person.

A Defense Ministry source said the two dead children, ages 1 and 10, were the sons of a preacher. When the criminal act took place, the clergyman was preaching the word of God to a group of peasants from Cerro Colorado, Matiguas area, in Matagalpa Department.

Yesterday, [as heard] Saturday, at 2100, a group of 30 counterrevolutionaries from the 15 September regional commando led by Ivan carried out a massacre in a house in Cerro Colorado, Matiguas, Jinotega Department [as heard]. Mass was being celebrated in that house. [passage omitted]

Panama

National Dialogue To Discuss Noriega Separation

PA1804185988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1741 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The possible separation [from active duty] of Panamanian Army chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega will be part of the agenda for discussion today at the national dialogue promoted by the progovernment People's Unity Front (FUP).

Today Hector Aleman, coordinator of the national dialogue, hinted at a news conference of the need to study the consequences of Noriega remaining as military commander or leaving.

He said that "studying the figure of Noriega" within the national dialogue is not for the purpose of "giving satisfaction to the opposition sectors," alleging that "every subject has to be dealt with."

Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, conditioned Noriega's separation on the results of a national dialogue.

Opposition sectors have refused to participate in the negotiations coordinated by the FUP until Noriega's separation from the Army and his eventual departure from the country are guaranteed.

Aleman said that a proposal has been presented to the commission "dealing with political affairs" for the possible appointment of a "national unity" government that would include the participation of opposition sectors and the reopening of the six opposition media closed by the authorities.

The opposition has repeatedly proposed the appointment of a "national consolidation" government with the participation of "honest" progovernment sectors and the reopening of the closed media.

Another subject included for study by the commission "dealing with political affairs" is Law No 20, which regulates the Army's activity, he said.

Aleman asked the Panamanian opposition groups to accept the "truce" proposed by government representatives in the FUP, an organization composed of progovernment labor, peasant, and government employees.

The government proposal consists of a 1-month truce with the opposition. During that time the closed media would be reopened and political prisoners released.

The opposition would have to give up its antigovernment demonstrations.

Aleman said that the commission "dealing with economic affairs" agreed by consensus to recommend the plenum and the government "study and evaluate the possibility of issuing currency" and request "a moratorium on interest on Panama's foreign debt" of more than $4 billion.

He added that an economic proposal exists for the issuance of small-denomination checks for $50 million to pay the salaries of government employees.

The proposal would allow the Panamanian authorities to issue these checks against Panamanian funds frozen in three U.S. banks on the orders of deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who is recognized by Washington as the legitimate head of state.

Paredes Criticizes U.S. Army 'Intervention'

PA1804175188 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Apr 88 pp A-1, A-2

[Text] Yesterday more than 5,000 families who occupy reverted land near Arraijan (Loma Coba) repudiated the "warlike and interventionist" attitude of the U.S. Army soldiers stationed in Panama and declared themselves in a state of alert and prepared to report to the world any attempt to invade land that already belongs to Panama.

"We will defend our land from the invader even if we have to shed our own blood," they said during a meeting held yesterday with legislator Rigoberto Paredes, president of the Committee for the Development of Reverted Areas in the Arraijan District. The meeting was held to draft a strategy to confront aggression by the United States and its constant violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaty.

Paredes told the landowners in the reverted areas that U.S. intervention in Panama knows no limits, and for this reason there is a possibility that the Southern Command Army might take over land adjacent to its military bases to recover reverted land for its warlike actions.

Paredes said that a U.S. invasion would convert Panama into another Vietnam, with the difference that here all the Latin American countries that support the just aspirations of Panama would come to fight beside it. "We must be united in these difficult moments. Although we do not want anyone to be killed on either side, we will defend our homeland," added Paredes.

The meeting was attended by leaders and directors of the different neighborhoods of the integrated program, such as El Progreso, Generacion 2000, 7 de Septiembre, Barriada 2000, Los Pinos, La Libertad, Martires de Enero, Barriada La Paz Segunda Etapa Torrijista, and others, who agreed to back Paredes in the struggle against U.S. intervention.

The Project for the Integrated Development of the Reverted Areas of Arraijan District is a project promoted by Paredes to provide 600-square-meter lots to poor working families who, under the Torrijist mandate, would till the land to develop areas that were previously under U.S. control.

The meeting was held at Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) headquarters in Arraijan. A commission was appointed to draft a proclamation that will be disseminated to the world to warn of the threat of U.S. intervention and invasion of land reverted to Panama. The proclamation will be signed by the 5,000 families who are part of the project.

"They have been violating Panamanian territory, burning areas outside their jurisdiction, and, according to eyewitnesses, gringo soldiers accompanied by trained dogs have been seen inspecting areas that belong to Panama," said Paredes.

Yesterday's meeting also let Arraijan integrated project residents air complaints to Paredes. Ivan Barahona, president of the board of sector 2 of La Paz Segunda Etapa Torrijista, and leaders Colombia de Samaniego and Myrna Arrocha, all long-standing pro-Torrijists, asked Paredes to resolve a problem for their sector because, in spite of keeping the work moving along and having a high degree of organization, the neighborhood has not yet been incorporated into the program promoted by Paredes.

'Tolerant Policy' by Utilities Urged

PA1804201388 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Apr 88 p A-4

[Editorial: "Period of Tolerance in the Payment of Public Services"]

[Text] The political and economic crisis, which is severely harming Panamanians, seems to be clouding the understanding of those who in one way or another lead the nation. Within the framework of the many negative incidents taking place in Panama, we have fallen into absolute discrimination of Panamanians who work for the private sector. We will not condemn the protection the government has given to its employees. The system of paying employees' wages with several small checks has helped public employees meet many of their daily needs. However, this is not the case with private sector employees.

For example, the government has let people pay certain state obligations with government checks. Various stores let people buy food with government checks. The same rule does not apply to private sector employees, who also need to somehow face the current crisis. With the current state of absolute chaos, it is necessary for state institutions such as IDAAN [National Water and Sanitation Institute], INTEL [National Institute of Telecommunication], and IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] to have a better understanding of the situation and implement a more flexible and tolerant policy concerning the payments that private sector employees must make to those institutions. It is very unfair to demand cash from those employees. It is an unacceptable stance at this time of true despair for all Panamanians.

We understand that these institutions need economic resources to continue providing their services. It is necessary, however, for those institutions to understand the desperate situation that each Panamanian is experiencing due to the private sector's economic bankruptcy. Thousands of Panamanian workers have been dismissed. Others have been sent home on leave without pay. In addition, some enterprises have been unable to pay workers' wages. Poverty and hunger have begun to strike every social sector. People do not even have enough money to buy food, and let us not even speak of the food shortage that has begun. In this Dantesque scene, the state institutions must be more tolerant so the Panamanian people can have a chance to fulfill their obligations as best they can.

Those who can resolve the crisis should also be concerned with other problems. Private sector workers are also Panamanians suffering from the critical time the country is experiencing. They should also be taken into consideration when adopting measures to alleviate the current serious crisis.

Argentina

Sourrouille Seeks Active IMF, World Bank Role

PY150410 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2137 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Apr (TELAM)—Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille today asked for a reformation of the foreign debt strategy. This idea calls for reviewing and strengthening the role of the IMF and the World Bank to give them a more active role in resolving the difficulties being faced by debtor countries.

Speaking before the IMF Interim Committee in Washington this morning, Minister Sourrouille outlined the critical situation facing debtor countries; noted the profound distortions of the international financial system, which are detrimental to developing countries; and deplored international trade conditions.

Only with credible policies, realistic objectives, and measures that can be effective over the long run can we expect to have success, Sourrouille said.

The text of Sourrouille's speech was released today by the Economy Ministry's Press Office in Buenos Aires.

Sourrouille began by saying that another year has been lost for the developing countries and, once again, we deplore the unsatisfactory situation of the world economy. He added that future prospects are not very encouraging.

He pointed out that the rate of growth of industrialized countries' economies was insufficient to reverse the situation of the less developed countries, especially of those saddled with the burden of servicing their foreign debt.

In recognizing that 1987 marked the beginning of a correction process of the strong macroeconomic imbalances affecting the large industrial countries, Sourrouille affirmed that the process of elimination of these imbalances is so slow that it is not effective in attenuating the adverse impact of those countries' policies on the less developed economies.

Continuing with his description of current international conditions, Sourrouille said that this situation is made worse by the high level of the external debt, which is, in and of itself, a heavy burden. This external imbalance, he added, is compounding the financial problems of the debtor coutries.

He added that the persistence of this adverse international situation has a particularly undesirable effect on the heavily-indebted countries. Although real interest rates are now slighly lower than in years subsequent to the onset of the foreign debt crisis, they are still high and undoubtedly reflect the fiscal imbalances in some industrial countries. He added that not only is the underlying picture of the debt crisis not very enouraging, but the current situation has become oppressive and its outcome uncertain.

The Argentine minister recognized that the crisis turned out to be more profound and lasting than expected in 1982. Today, he said, despite the efforts made to adjust our economies, the debt-GDP and the debt-export ratios are even greater than they were when the crisis began. And only a very gradual reduction of these ratios can be foreseen in the next few years.

Sourrouille then said it has been suggested that markets be observed carefully in order to detect the real trend of economic variables. We agree with this suggestion. Let us then see what the markets tell us in this case. The continuous trend in recent years has shown a decline in value of the documents representative of our countries' debt. This trend leaves no doubt about the expectations regarding debt servicing. True, he added, secondary markets are not all that perfect and are relatively small, but let us agree that they truthfully reflect a perception of the real ability to pay off the debtor countries.

The economy minister admitted that international organizations are slowly introducing in the discussion of the problem some elements which the developing countries have been proposing for some time now. Along these lines, he cited the expansion of available credits to the poorest countries, the possiblity that the IMF support programs of up to 4 years, and the possible introduction of contingency clauses in programs so as to offer protection against unforeseeable external developments.

Sourrouille then said that among the negative actions that must be deplored are the attitude of a few countries which, resorting to their implicit veto power, continue to oppose the will of the majority to reapportion Special Drawing Rights and to increase IMF quotas.

He admitted that the decision of the debtor countries to introduce structural changes in their economies stems from a process of political maturity, which has been clearly demonstrated and which must be truly appreciately by all countries involved in the crisis.

Finally, Sourrouille called for a change of emphasis in the programs to be negotiated in the future, because, although nobody questions the need to maintain a disciplined and reasonable macroeconomic context, it is necessary to provide financial relief for the foreign debt crunch. It is also necessary to reformulate the strategy to deal with the foreign debt crisis and to strengthen the role of the IMF and the World Bank to give them a more effective role in the resolution of the problems that beset the debtor countries.

Labor Bill Becomes Law With No Modification

PY151404 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2205 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Apr (NA)—The Labor Union Law, which was approved by both Peronists and Radicals in Congress, was effectively promulgated at midnight today when the deadline for the executive branch to modify it partially or entirely expired, and the president did not exercise his veto power on any of its numerous articles.

President Alfonsin's decision to not modify the text approved by Congress left in force the controversial Article 52, which requires a court decision before a union delegate can be dismissed.

In declarations to television channel 13 last night, Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli anticipated President Alfonsin's decision to not veto the Labor Union Law, thus upholding the Labor Ministry position on this matter.

The promulgation of this law thus went against the wishes of businessmen, who had asked for a presidencial veto of Article 52, which establishes that they must await a court decision before dismissing a union delegate from his job. This position in favor of a presidencial veto was shared by high-level officials of the Economy Ministry.

It is now up to the executive branch to issue the regulations implementing the law to see if through them it will attenuate the implications of a previous court ruling before a union delegate can be dismissed. The Labor Secretariat of the Labor Ministry will be in charge of drawing up these regulations, as it has been presumed lately by various sectors of the government.

This afternoon Labor Secretary Luis Lozano met with President Alfonsin to inform him on the final details of the Labor Union Law regulations, although this meeting was not part of the president's agenda.

Businessmen who are members of the Argentine Industrial Union and the Rural Society threatened to take "direct action," which, they let it be understood, can include an employers' "lockout" against Article 52.

Before adopting such a measure, however, the businessmen would wait for the implementation of law to be announced to see if this regulation in some way favors the arguments of the business sector.

Article 52 as it has been approved by Congress bans the dismissal of a union delegate without previous court ruling.

Next Monday, 18 April, President Alfonsin might receive the representatives of the business sector at the Olivos residence to discuss this problem. However, the meeting has not yet been confirmed.

Crespo Denies Conflict Within Air Force

PY151139 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0007 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Tandil, 14 Apr (TELAM)—Brigadier Ernesto Crespo, chief of the Air Force General Staff, has denied the existence of disagreements within the institution. He said there is no internal conflict in the Air Force, and it is not true that everything that is done in the country is bad.

Crespo made these remarks just before visiting the installations of the 6th Air Brigade headquarted in this city, accompanied by his Peruvian counterpart, General of the Air Force Pablo Varela Novella.

According to the Air Force Press Office, both the Argentine and Peruvian Air Force chiefs visited this unit, base of the Mirage fighter planes. [passage omitted]

Army Chief of Staff Departs for Visit to U.S.

PY161518 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0206 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (NA)—Tonight Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi traveled to the United States, where he will meet with high-ranking Pentagon officers during a visit that will be charged with expectation in view of unofficial announcements that the United States will sell war materiel worth $18 million to Argentina.

Caridi is the first Argentine general to go to the United States since 1981, when Leopoldo Galtieri traveled to that country just before the beginning of the Malvinas war against Great Britain.

Military sources have admitted the possibility that U.S. General Carl Vuono will officially tell Caridi about the granting of an $18-million line of credit for the purchase of Bell UH-1 helicopters and light armored vehicles for transporting troops, to replace those Argentina lost in the South Atlantic war.

The Army chief of staff will remain for 10 days in the United States on an official visit. Gen Vuono, who is Caridi's counterpart [as received], invited Caridi in December 1987 during the 17th Conference of American Armies (CEA) that was held in Mar del Plata.

The Argentine officer will visit the Command College [Colegio de Comando], the staff members at Fort Leavenworth, and the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell.

In Washington he will pay protocol visits on Department of Defense officials, and he will meet with Gen Vouno and other U.S. Army officers.

Caridi himself admitted on 12 April that he will inspect new weapons systems, and he said "we are going to look into the possibility of ensuring that the U.S. equipment we have will remain operational."

CGT's Ubaldini: Strike 98 Percent Effective

PY151337 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0012 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Apr (TELAM)—Late this afternoon the Executive Council of the General Confederation of Labor [CGT] issued a communique signed by CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini saying that work absenteeism reached 98 percent throughout the country during today's 24-hour strike.

In the communique, the CGT expresses its deep satisfaction for the peaceful triumph of the people's plebiscite that on 14 April expressed opposition to a policy that would relegate our national objectives and the maintainance of our standard of living to second place.

According to the CGT, the breakdown of absenteeism by district is as follows: Jujuy, Tucuman, La Rioja, Misiones, San Luis, La Pampa, and Chubut: 100 percent; Salta and Chaco: 99.5 percent; Entre Rios and Santa Fe: 99.3 percent; Santiago del Estero: 99.1 percent; Formosa, Cordoba, and Santa Cruz: 99 percent; Catamarca: 98.7 percent; Tierra del Fuego: 98.5 percent; Rio Negro: 98 percent; Corrientes: 97.9 percent; Neuquen: 97.4 percent; San Juan: 96 percent; Buenos Aires Province: 95.8 percent; Buenos Aires: 94.9 percent; and Mendoza: 89 percent.

No national or provincial government organizations or businesses provided figures on the strike to compare with these.

However, some figures from CGT regional offices do not coincide with the figures of Saul Ubaldini's Executive Council. Maximo Saucedo, head of the CGT Chaco Regional Office, said that 95 percent of the workers obeyed the order to strike (99.5 percent according to the National Council); the CGT Corrientes Regional Office said that absenteeism reached 83 percent (97.9 percent according to the document distributed at CGT headquarters at 802 Azopardo Street, Buenos Aires); and Miguel Angel Correa, secretary general of the Cordoba unified CGT branch, said absenteeism reached an average of 97 percent (the central office said 99 percent).

The communique stresses that the strike must be understood as a protest and a rejection of the government's socioeconomic policies, and not as a demand for higher salaries. The document adds that this is the first stage of a struggle that will not end as long as the government continues with its present policies.

The document declares its support for the struggle and for the just demands of teachers. The document also speaks of maneuvering to turn a social problem, which is the responsibility of the constitutional government, into a national issue.

The communique adds that if the government insists on denying reality and does not modify its policies, it will pay for its stubbornness, and it adds: We are not the ones who are closing the doors on understanding and dialogue, but we will not accept imperative dictates or a simple monologue.

CGT Press Secretary Jose Pedraza said 1 hour before distributing the document to the national media that the CGT would only release the report to foreign correspondents and would make no statements, because there is a 24-hour strike in the Argentine media, and press workers are on strike.

UCR Deputy on Strike

PY151359 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1203 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (NA) —The CGT has estimated that the 24-hour general strike on 14 April was 98.3 percent effective, and that the strike was converted into "pronouncement by the people" that "must be understood as a protest and as a rejection of the government's social and economic policy."

Cesar Jaroslavsky, the head of the Radical bloc of deputies, said the strike was a "type of subversive holiday" of a "political nature," because those who promoted it "have the intention of impairing the economic situation by paralyzing the country at a time when an election campaign is starting to heat up."

"When the people are not allowed to get to their places of work we are faced with a coercive action that violates the rights of the rest of the population."

Meanwhile, the CGT has warned the authorities that "if the inertness is not overcome and if the policy is not changed, the protest will increase to the extent that no answers are given to the legitimate demands of the people."

The CGT communique, which is signed by Secretary General Saul Ubaldini, indicates that "this is the first stage of a struggle that will not conclude while the intention exists to prolong this situation." [passage omitted]

Embalse Nuclear Plant Closed for Repair

PY161558 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1932 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Cordoba, 15 Apr (TELAM)—The Embalse nuclear plant has been shut down to resolve a problem in the pump system. This was reported at noon today by Hector Diaz, the plant's director, who estimated the problem will be fixed sometime next week.

Diaz said that a solution to the problem is being sought, and he termed the problem serious. He also said that the problem emerged after 9 months of uninterrupted functioning during which the plant provided energy to the national system at 100 percent of its capacity.

He told local station Radio LV3 that the national energy problem is due to a shortage of energy from several plants, including hydroelectrical plants. He stated that currently the Salto Grande Dam does not have any water, and that the Chocon plant had to release a large amount of water due to a problem in the dam itself, thus preventing it from providing a large amount of energy.

He added that there are also thermal plants that are having problems, such as a lack of fuel. During the past few months the Embalse plant has done everything to help in resolving these problems. Unfortunately, we now have to carry out a series of unpostponable technical tasks, he added. [passage omitted]

Buenos Aires Blackouts

PY161802 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1240 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Apr (NA)—The government is going to implement a series of limitations on the use of electricity that will begin with restrictions on the activities of the advertising sector and continue on 18 April with 5-hour staggered blackouts in the federal capital and Greater Buenos Aires in order to overcome the serious generation deficit in the national interconnected system and the nuclear and hydroelectric plants.

Rodolfo Terragno, public works and services minister, criticized the lack of planning in the energy sector when he stated that "they said there was an excess of electricity, and now because it has not rained there will be cuts in the service because there are no reserves."

Energy Secretary Roberto Echarte stated that the first series of measures will include "cutting off electricity for lighting of shop windows and neon signs." He also said that it is possible that "nighttime sports events will also be suspended."

These measures have been adopted due to "transitory problems" in the national interconnected system due to the lack of water in the Uruguay and Limay Rivers and to the closing down of the nuclear plants that generate electricity.

Meanwhile, SEGBA [Greater Buenos Aires Electricty Service] has programmed a series of blackouts from 18 to 24 April that will be implemented between 0700 and 1200, from 1200 to 1700, and from 1700 to 2200 within the radius of the federal capital and greater Buenos Aires.

The management of the Energy Secretariat specifically clarified that "the Atucha and Embalse nuclear plants, the country's most important plants, are currently out of service due to technical problems," although it is believed "feasible that during the course of next week the problems will be resolved."

SEGBA has promised to disseminate the schedules and the sectors that will be affected well in advance of the times of the blackouts in order to permit the population to take the necessary precautions to face them.

Oscar Lascano, secretary general of the Light and Power Union, stressed that the lack of electricity that will affect the federal capital and Greater Buenos Aires "is a problem that has been caused by a total lack of foresight," when he charged that the Puerto Nuevo and Costanera generating plants "have been practically abandoned."

Some officials of the energy sector have revealed that within the next few days there will be a decision regarding the reduction of radio and television transmissions, in order to resume normal service as soon as possible.

Bolivia

Communique Labels Chile 'Overbearing, Arbitrary'

PY151445 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] The government has accused Chile of being overbearing and arbitrary for diverting the Lauca River in 1962. Today, on the anniversary of this action, the Chilean [as heard] Foreign Ministry issued a communique labeling Chile as overbearing and arbitrary and accusing it of ignoring international regulations.

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry states that throughout its history, Chile has demonstrated a poor attitude, to the detriment of Bolivia.

The communique mentions Bolivia's landlocked situation, the diversion of the Lauca River, and the new name given to the Arica-La Paz railway.

The Bolivian Government understands that the international community is aware of the Chilean actions, and it requested a more determined action to repair the damage done to Bolivia.

Paz Estenssoro Returns To Work After Illness

PY181551 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Presidency Secretary General Walter Zuleta has reported that President Victor Paz Estenssoro will return to the government palace today to deal with state matters.

Zuleta added that after a period of rest for several days last week, the president will return to the government palace today to hold several meetings that were suspended due to his illness.

This morning Paz Estenssoro is scheduled to meet with some ministers and members of his party, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement.

Bedregal Travels to Brazil To Prepare for Summit

PY181830 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1654 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] La Paz, 18 Apr (EFE)—Today Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez left for Brazil, where he will meet with his Brazilian counterpart, Abreu Sodre, to prepare the final details of the meeting between Brazilian and Bolivian Presidents Jose Sarney and Victor Paz Estenssoro in May.

Bolivian Foreign Ministry sources have reported that the presidents' agenda includes the signing of agreements on the sale of Bolivian natural gas, the struggle against drug trafficking, the trade balance, and aspects related to agriculture and technical cooperation.

With his trip to Brazil, Bedregal concludes a number of meetings between technical and political leaders of the two countries who prepared the documents that will be signed by the two presidents.

The agreement on the sale of natural gas still lacks figures on the amount to be sold, although several sources have announced that it could reach 3 million cubic meters daily.

Bolivian Central Bank and YPF officials accompanied the foreign minister on his trip to Brazil.

Group Says DEA Using 'Chemical Bombs'

PY161628 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0157 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Cochabamba, Bolivia, 15 Mar (EFE)—According to leaders of the Special Federation of Colonizers of the Tropics [Federacion Especial de Colonizadores del Tropico], U.S. DEA agents have used "chemical bombs" to destroy coca plots in the region of Chapare, 400 km east of La Paz.

The campesino organization stresses that four powerful bombs loaded with coca-destroying chemicals were placed during the past few days by U.S. DEA agents in the neighborhood of the village of Isinuta.

The organization adds that the explosions destroyed many trees, the color of the foliage changed, and many of the population suffered headaches and earaches.

The campesino leaders stated that presumably the action of the DEA agents were aimed at making the land unusable, thus eradicating the coca plots, because it is not possible the actions were intended to destroy alleged clandestine airstrips.

They expressed their concern about the danger of using chemicals in the eradication of the coca plots, especially since the President Victor Paz government rejected this method during the recent visit of U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese.

Today Jorge Alderete, deputy minister for social defense at the Interior Ministry, stated that "small traffickers" of cocaine will also be pursued within the framework of the government's struggle against drug trafficking.

Alderete explained that these "minor groups of drug traffickers" are the ones that sell small quantities of drugs to the country's youth and children.

These bands operate mainly in the urban centers of La Paz, Cochabamba, Beni, and Santa Cruz, Alderete stated, which places the health of Bolivian students in serious danger.

Explosives Used

PY180216 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2010 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] La Paz, 16 Apr (EFE)—Today the Bolivian Government admitted that the special forces fighting drug trafficking are using explosives.

Jorge Alderete, under secretary for social defense at the Interior Ministry, has said his forces working with DEA agents are using "medium-power" bombs to destroy clandestine airfields built by drug traffickers in tropical regions.

Alderete made this statement in response to reports from peasants yesterday in Cochabamba, east of La Paz, that the DEA is using high-power explosives containing chemicals to destroy coca plots. Alderete said the blowing up of clandestine airfields represents a new phase in the special forces' fight against drug trafficking.

He also expressed satisfaction over the results achieved so far, indicating that in the first quarter of 1988 the special forces seized 4 and 1/2 tons of cocaine, which represents better results than the previous phase.

Interior Minister Comments

PY190308 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran has said there is absolute calm throughout the country. Duran met with President Paz Estenssoro at government house and briefed him on the social situation of the country.

Minister Duran told the press there was total calm in all regions because the state security organizations had taken the most reasonable measures to prevent the spread of demonstrations. He further said the government can best promote national development and progress in a climate of peace and prosperity. He added that Bolivians demand that the government guarantee the implementation of the various development programs.

Minister Duran further said that authorities are implementing the most appropriate measures to fight drug trafficking in the country and that the results are satisfactory.

Duran said the government [words indistinct] to eradicate coca growing in the Chapare region. He maintained, however, that national authorities have the responsibility [words indistinct] and that DEA agents did not have to resort to bombings [words indistinct]. The minister said the government does not need to use such methods to reduce coca crops because producers have signed an agreement to reduce the crop in a peaceful manner.

Brazil

Nobrega Comments on Negotiations With IMF

PY181403 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Apr 88

[By Cristina Indio do Brasil]

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has returned to Brazil. He said his trip to the United States helped to speed up the foreign debt negotiations and to reach a consensus regarding a long-term agreement to be signed with the bankers.

This week, creditors will discuss all the topics that have been agreed upon during Nobrega's visit. Most of the creditors will attend a meeting in Tokyo to study U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker's proposal to increase the amount of the loans that the creditor banks will grant to developing countries.

Brazil is very much interested in the results of this meeting.

[Begin recording] [Nobrega] Representatives of the World Bank, the Japanese Government, the private banks, and the U.S. Government will attend this meeting. We have been told that the Brazilian debt will be discussed because the participation of Japanese banks and the Japanese Government itself in the financing of Brazilian development will also be discussed.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, will the Japanese Government lend money to Brazil only if we reach an agreement with the IMF?

[Nobrega] Yes. An agreement with the IMF is fundamental not only to open the country's doors for credits to be granted by the Paris Club, but also for the credits of the Nakasone program, which will be implemented by the Japanese Government. We have been told that the Japanese Government will only grant loants to Brazil after we reach an agreement with the Paris Club. [end recording]

According to Minister Nobrega, the Brazilian experts who will contact the IMF this week [words indistinct] with the IMF. They will only continue to discuss technicalities of the Brazilian economy. The Brazilian experts will listen to the suggestions of IMF experts and explain to them the program the Brazilian Government has prepared to reorganize its economy.

Negotiations with the IMF will begin in May, when an IMF mission will come to Brazil.

Sarney To Visit Bolivia, United States, PRC

PY181419 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Excerpt] President Jose Sarney will make three trips this year:

In May he will visit Bolivia, where he will sign agreements on border cooperation and the proposed purchase of Bolivian gas.

In June, President Sarney will attend a UN special meeting on world disarmament in the United States.

In July, Sarney will visit the PRC to intensify the implementation of rapprochement policies between Brazil and the PRC. [passage omitted]

Chile

Pinochet Said Qualified for Nomination

PY161614 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Apr 88

[By Guillermo Bruna]

[Text] In recent days there has been a debate on whether the presidential candidate to be proposed by the Armed Forces commanders in chief and the Carabineros director should be a civilian or a military men and if General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, the current president and Army commander in chief, can be proposed as a candidate.

In statements published by the press, professors of constitutional law have unanimously stated that the Constitution says nothing about the profession of the candidate or about his civil, military, or relegious status. It is absurd to raise the issue because the Constitution does not make even a single reference to the subject.

As for the designation of Augusto Pinochet as the candidate, the Constitution sets forth that he is the Army commander in chief and the president, and that the prohibition on being reelected—which the Constitution establishes in its principles—does not apply to him. Consequently, the Constitution clearly says he can be nominated without resigning his military status.

It is surprising, however, that PDC [Christian Democratic Party] members have championed the cause that seeks to disqualify the Army commander in chief as a possible candidate. But, dear listeners, this is not actually strange. The internationalist PDC has never understood the Armed Forces and has never realized the real importance and significance of the Armed Forces. Let us recall that when the PDC was in power, the neglect of the Armed Forces led the Tacna Regiment to rebel, after which the PDC government began to take care of the Armed Forces personnel. Now, the PDC does not understand anything either. We are under an Armed Forces government that freed us from Marxism, saving our democracy on 11 September 1973.

Considering that their task of restoring and creating a new institutional order is still to be completed, it is logical that the Armed Forces should have the key to the new institutional order and should have the right to propose the name of the new president without limitations regarding his civil of military status.

I am sure the commanders in chief and the Carabineros director will choose the person who will most faithfully represent the Constitution's ideals and the new democracy, and who will have the best chances of winning the plebiscite.

Those who are obstructing the mission of the commanders in chief are actually afraid that the candidate they will propose will win the plebiscite.

Labor Minister: No Vote Means Backwardness
PY151925 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Labor and Social Welfare Minister Alfonso Marquez de la Plata, during an address to the community of Conchali, said that Chileans must not change the present path of progress for the demagogic verbiage offered by the opposition.

The minister's speech was acknowledge by an ovation from the people of Conchali.

Marquez de la Plata told those present that they should disseminate the urgent need for the yes vote to win the upcoming plebiscite.

The minister added that the no vote is not a worthy alternative because it represents backwardness.

Minister Marquez assessed Chile's situation since 11 September 1973 and said that those who verbally attack President Pinochet now are the ones that led the country to chaos. [passage omitted]

Radical Democratic Party Favors Yes Vote
PY162359 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Radical Democratic Party President Jaime Tormo has reasserted his party's support for the yes vote in the upcoming plebiscite. He also expressed support for General Pinochet's candidacy.

Tormo made this statement during a news conference in which he added: We are the radical party in favor of the yes vote. We support the yes vote and Pinochet because this is no time for hesitation.

[Begin Tormo recording] As for the Radical Democratic Party's position regarding the plebiscite, our party has defined itself as the radical party in favor of the yes vote and Pinochet.

We believe this is not time for hesitation. We believe it is not advisable to contend the clear political positions Chile is witnessing. It is those who believe they will fail in their political aspirations who want to complicate the political picture. [end recording]

Tormo said the Chilean majority in 1973 entrusted the Armed Forces and Gen Pinochet with the responsibility of eradicating Marxism-Leninism. He added that the 1980 Constitution has helped to reassert the people's confidence in the Armed Forces and Gen Pinochet. Regarding the plebiscite, Tormo said the 1980 Constitution allows for the reelection of the current president, which means that the future government may be consolidated through President Pinochet's election.

[Begin Tormo recording] We believe the majority of Chileans in 1973 entrusted the Armed Forces and Gen Pinochet with the destiny of our fatherland. We made them responsible for eradicating Marxism-Leninism and for stopping our country from becoming a totalitarian state. [end recording]

Tormo said the Radical Democratic Party is aware that through the action undertaken by the Armed Forces and forces of order in September 1973, by request of Chileans, we did not allow Chile to become a new Cuba or a new Nicaragua. He said this government has done more than any other previous government from the social point of view, and the Chilean economy has never been in better hands than at present.

Tormo also criticized the opposition's activities aimed at undermining the Armed Forces' work. He added that the Armed Forces deserve the respect of all citizens and those who offend them are offending the fatherland itself.

As for statements noting that there is a high percentage of poverty in Chile, Tormo said Chile is a poor country and we are supporting the present government because we must achieve political development. He said: Poverty is characteristic of underdeveloped countries.

Moreover, Julio Duran, chairman of the Radical Democratic Party Political Commission, said those who criticize the work carried out by authorities and who say there is a high percentage of poverty in the country have forgotten that during their term in government the poverty level was the same.

Electoral Court Head on Registration Deadline
PY181924 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Juan Ignacio Garcia, head of the Electoral Registration Court, has recently said that registration will be suspended the same day the decree convoking the plebiscite is published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. Garcia added that from that day forward, electoral registration will not be permitted in Chile until after the plebiscite.

Based on the number of people already registered, Garcia estimates that more than 6 million people will vote in the plebiscite. Statistics show that more than 5 million people have already registered. He said that the monthly and daily number of people registering for the plebiscite has been steady. He believes the fact that no more than 400,000 people have registered per month does not mean [words indistinct] than the number registered until now.

Regarding the characteristics of the ballots to be used for voting in the plebiscite, Garcia said: The ballot will be very simple.

At the top it will say: Plebiscite for President of the Republic. Under the name of the candidate there will be the words "yes" and "no." Beneath the words "yes" and "no," there will be a line where the voters will mark an X.

Garcia also said that the voting booth will be entirely secret. The person voting will not be seen through the booth's walls, and the ballot will not be transparent. Garcia added that this system has been traditionally used in Chile for more than 50 years.

Regarding the vote counting process, Garcia said it is fully guaranteed and that there will not be any possibility of fraud as some opposition sectors are suggesting. He said there will be no fraud because the vote count will be done in public by the five poll watchers present at each voting table, as recommended by law, and the representatives of all parties that have registered up to 4 months in advance of the date of the plebiscite.

Further on Registration
PY191227 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 19 Apr 88

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Electoral Service Director Juan Ignacio Garcia has reported that 5,045,825 voters have registered at the electoral registries as of 31 March 1988. Garcia said that if this registration trend remains constant, there will be 6-6.5 million registered voters in June, which represents 62.5 percent of the total numbers of voters.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] According to the latest statistical figures, there were 5,045,000 men and women registered to vote on 31 March 1988. It should be noted that March has been the best month in terms of the number of registered voters, because 470,000 voters registered that month. This figure is higher than any other month. This also reflects the interest that the people have in registering, which is very positive for everyone.

[Reporter] Mr Garcia, how does this figure compare with the 1973 figures?

[Garcia] If we compare these 5,045,000 voters with the 4,500,000 voters that there were in 1973, we can see that we have greatly surpassed that number. However, if we extrapolate the current number of registered voters we see that the number of registered voters will be around 6,300,000. The number of voters currently registered is almost 78 percent of the all-time record of registered voters in Chile. The total number of voters, 8,000,000, shows that 62.5 percent of voters have registered, quite a high rate. [end recording]

Garcia said that the number of registered voters increased in March because of the intense advertising that the various sectors have done on the issue. He explained that of the 5,045,825 registered voters, 54.4 percent are men and 45.6 percent are women.

The metropolitan region has the largest number of voters, with 1,891,935, while the lowest number is the 11th region, with 28,208 voters.

Pinochet Urges Government Achievement Support
PY151701 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpt] During a luncheon with the workers of Codelco Chile [Copper Corp.] in Rancagua, President Augusto Pinochet urged all Chileans to support the government's achievements, which, he said, belong to all Chileans.

The president, who carried out various activities here, attended the luncheon at the Rancagua amphitheater [medialuna], accompanied by various ministers, under secretaries, and regional authorities.

Seven Codelco miners received awards for oustanding performance on the corporation's 12th anniversary.

President Pinochet congratulated Codelco workers and noted the role played by copper in the country's development, as well as the capability of those who work for the enterprise.

The president also criticized certain union leaders, who in a selfish manner and with partisan purposes are determined to jeopardize the corporation.

The president then noted the significance of the upcoming plebiscite.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Ladies and gentlemen, a historic event for Chile will soon take place [words indistinct]. You, in your capacity as workers, will be able to fully appreciate its significance and will not be deceived by empty rhetoric and promises that never materialize. [end recording]

President Pinochet's speech was interrupted several times by the applause of those attending the luncheon.

Pinochet then urged all Chileans to support the government's achievements.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Today, as we celebrate another anniversary of Codelco, the president of the Republic voices his great hope for the future of our fatherland and urges the Chileans to support the government's achievements, which belong to all Chileans because they have been achieved through everyone's efforts. Only by doing this will we become a prosperous, modern, solid, efficient, free, and spiritually renewed country. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Discusses Plebiscite

PY161701 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Yesterday President Pinochet said that the plebiscite that will be called in a few months will provide a chance for renewing our patriotic commitment and for continuing the vast work that has been done to reap new fruits of freedom, progress, and development. The president made this statement in a speech at the Santiago City Hall building after being decorated with the Order of Santiago de Nueva Extremadura, during a solemn ceremony in which Mayor Gustavo Alessandri awarded the decoration to the president under the sponsorship of the municipal union of neighborhood boards.

During the ceremony, which was attended by high-ranking government officials, the president expressed satisfaction at receiving the decoration and stressed the role of someone who governs. He said: The work of a president is certainly not easy. The lack of understanding and the ingratitude that must be faced every day can be overcome only with a strong love for the fatherland, in order to continue the enormous and serious responsibility of leading the Chilean nation and building a better future for everyone.

The president said that in his capacity as soldier and president he was legitimaly proud of the decoration, which has a special significance.

[Begin Pinochet recording, in progress]....significance, because it shows the big difference between those leaders who act to the detriment of the fatherland and the authentic Chileans who are proud to see their ideals reflected in the Armed Forces and who support them with patriotic enthusiasm. [end recording]

Moved by emotion, the president then referred to the work undertaken by the neighborhoods.

[Begin Pinochet recording] This valuable decoration awarded by the municipal union of neighborhood boards has an immense significance because it reflects the feelings of those who are anonymously but resolutely building Chile's future and who have given fair recognition to our government work, with honesty and patriotism.

The plebiscite, which will be called in a few months, will provide a chance to renew our patriotic commitment [words indistinct], continuing the vast work that has been done, reaping new fruits of freedom, progress, and development, which is the demand of Chile, our children, and all of you. Thank you, very much. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ambassador to OAS on Bolivian Claims

PY190240 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Chilean Ambassador to the OAS Javier Illanes has said it is a permanent Chilean policy to facilitate the transportation of Bolivian goods and people through Chilean ports.

Asked about the protest raised by Bolivia at changing the name of the Arica-La Paz Railway to the Arica Regional Railway, Illanes answered that he does not have a full answer to this.

However, he said, this was an internal administrative decision that does not affect the treaties or the international conditions of the railway of which Chile and Bolivia own separate sections. He said the railway serves Bolivia, allowing it to transport merchandise to the port of Arica.

Illanes said the Bolivian protest is aimed at maintaining its maritime aspirations at an international forum.

Asked about Bolivia's request to transfer the ECLA headquarters from Chile and to withdraw an official document that describes the facilities granted to Bolivia

for transporting its products via the Pacific Ocean, Illanes replied that this was an unimportant matter and that Bolivia's demands are unrealistic.

Finance Minister on Discussions With IMF

PY152057 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Finance Minister Hernan Buchi has announced that the Chilean Government will be tied to the IMF for 1 more year and that an IMF mission will visit the country in May. Buchi made these statements upon returning from the United States after participating in the joint annual World Bank-IMF meeting in Washington.

Buchi said that an IMF technical mission will analyze the Chilean application for an extension of the current Expanded Financial Facility Agreement (Convenio de Facilidad Ampliada), which falls due on 10 August. The agreement would be extended for 1 year and would imply that new resources would be available to the country.

[Begin Buchi recording, in progress] ...I talked with the IMF about the mechanisms necessary to continue our relations. We have an Expanded Financial Facility Agreement with the IMF which was agreed to for 3 years and falls due this year. Commercial banks consider it convenient, and the country agrees, for us to maintain relations with this organization as long as we need to negotiate with commercial banks. [end recording]

Buchi said he met with James Baker, U.S. secretary of the treasury, who recognized the efforts the country is making to improve growth, employment, and the well-being of Chileans.

Buchi also met with representatives of the World Bank to review the different development projects submitted for their consideration.

Buchi said in conclusion that the joint IMF-World Bank meeting discussed prospects of the world economy and the different alternatives to ease the burden of developing countries.

Interior Ministry Official on Terrorism

PY161452 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Interior Under Secretary Alberto Cardemil has warned that the government will fight terrorism with military force if necessary. Cardemil was referring to the increase in terrorism attacks, which he said are not spontaneous or amateurish. He added that terrorism today is coordinated with political, legal, and cultural action.

Cardemil said the government believes the problem cannot be allowed to spread. He said it will use all its resources to control it. He said terrorism in Chile is supported by military actions sponsored by the Soviet Union, examples of which, he added, are the arsenals that were clandestinely introduced in the north of the country. This action has prompted the government to be ready for military actions if necessary, Cardemil said.

Regarding the on-going civic crusade to explain the options at the plebiscite, Cardemil said it is a mess in which people linked, or said to be linked, to the church are involved.

Cardemil said the civic campaign will eventually become openly identified with the opposition and transform itself into a political pamphlet action opposed to the government.

Cardemil concluded by saying that if those heading the campaign have duck feathers, duck feet, duck beaks, and sound like ducks, it is obvious that what they do is for ducks.

Petition To End PCCh Leader's Exile Rejected

PY161548 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Santiago's Court of Appeals has rejected a writ of amparo filed by Communist Party Leader Luis Guastavino and thus denied Guastavino's petition to return to the country.

The Court of Appeals decreed that the petition was not submitted on time and ruled that the prohibition for entry was issued according to constitutional transitory Article 24. The decision also stated that the original prohibition was issued because Guastavino was considered a danger to internal peace.

Chile Accepts FRG Decision on Dignidad Colony

PY152103 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has stated that the FRG Government decision to participate in the investigations into the Dignidad Colony case, which are being carried out by the Chillan Appellate Court, is in line with national and international laws.

This report has been released by acting Foreign Ministry spokesman Alfonso Silva, who added that the Chilean Foreign Ministry has understood from the very beginning that that is a matter concerning the courts. [passage omitted]

Colony Guns Called Legal

PY161727 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] The Defense Ministry, acting within its prerogatives, ordered an inspection of the guns at Dignidad Colony in view of an FRG concern about illegal activities there.

The inspection was made by experts from the Department of Arms Control, Explosives, and Chemical Products of the National Mobilization Directorate.

The department issued a complete report on the subject. The report states that the Dignidad Benificent Society strictly complies with the laws. This means that all arms in the colony have the appropriate permit and registration.

The report adds that most arms are for personal defense, with the exception of some arms used for sports. The report also states that the machine shops in the colony are only appropriate for the maintenance of the colony's agricultural machinery.

Carabinero Killers Held Incommunicado

PY151625 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The murderers of Carabinero officer Alfredo Rivera and their accomplices have been placed at the disposal of military prosecutor Lorenzo Andrade, who yesterday placed the perpetrators of this brutal crime under incommunicado status.

The people involved in this crime are suspected terrorists charged with committing common crimes and participating in well-known protests.

Carabinero Corporal Alfredo Rivera was murdered on Saturday morning, 2 April, as he was boarding a bus at bus station No 5 on Vicuna Mackenna Street in San Miguel. [passage omitted]

After exhaustive investigations the Alcoholic Beverage Control Unit of the Prefecture of Southern Santiago, with the cooperation of personnel of other units, arrested the following people: Jorge Antonio Munoz Martinez, 22, who is unmarried and unemployed, aka (El Salda); Juan Antonio Morales Navarro, 25, married and unemployed, aka Emilio Juan; Manuel Antonio Ortiz Lecaros, 24, married, aka (El Manon); a minor identified only as C.S.L.R., 14; M.P.N., 17, married, aka (LA Kiti); and Margarita del Carmen Mazuela Lianca, 20, unmarried. [passage omitted]

It was disclosed that the arrested people's police records include entries for participating in protests, for disrupting public order, and arrests for carrying weapons and wearing ski masks. According to literature found in their possession, it is believed that these individuals are linked to terrorist groups.

The arrested people have been placed at the disposal of the second military court of Santiago.

Students Attack Rector, Raid Offices

PY152339 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1554 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Santiago, 15 Apr (TELAM/ANSA)—A university rector has been physically and verbally attacked by excited students, while in another university students raided offices to seize and destroy documents.

Rector Carlos von Plessing, of the University of Concepcion (in the city of Concepcion, located 500 km south of Santiago), was attacked by students. He said that this is the worst affront a unversity authority has ever suffered in Chile.

Von Plessing, who confronted the inflammed students, who have been protesting the monthly tuition payments they have to make, was defended by deans, professors, and other students. The aggressors also attacked reporters.

Moreover, at the University of Chile Engineering School, in Santiago, hooded students raided an accounting office and destroyed student promissory notes.

7 Students Expelled

PY190259 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 88

[By Javier Navarrete]

[Excerpt] Seven University of Concepcion students have been expelled on charges of instigating, promoting, and performing the shameful actions during which university Rector Carlos von Plessing, the academic vice rector, deans, professors, and employees were physically and verbally attacked at the School of Education, Humanities, and Arts at the (Pampele) campus last Thursday. There has been a general consensus within the university and also among other institutions and people about the need to impose the punishment. The affected students are Alejandro Navarro Bryan, Hector Grampon Laguna, Manuel Antonio Torres, Gonzalo Torres Fernandez, Mauricio Gallardo Iglesias, Esteban Sandoval Queirolo, and Rodrigo Calderon Atete. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Damage From Bomb Attacks

Railroad Track Hit

PY151934 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] A bomb attack was perpetrated at kilometer 10 on the railroad track that links Santiago and Valparaiso.

Two explosive devices, each containing 1 kg of ammonioum gelignite, planted on two electricity line posts, were simultaneously detonated.

The explosion damaged the railroad track and two electricity line posts.

Shock waves from the explosion shattered the windows of buildings located on 260, 266, and 270 Altamirano Avenue.

Cargo train traffic has been suspended while the lines are being repaired.

'Powerful' Bomb Near Rancagua

PY152101 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Report by (Ivana Astorca) in Rancagua]

[Text] A powerful bomb, which did not achieve its objective, exploded near Rancagua last night.

The bomb was placed at the foot of high tension tower No 58 of the (Taltal)-Rancagua line. The power of the line is 154 kw and it is located on the premises of the Brasilia cooperative, 3 km northeast of El Cobre highway near Rancagua.

The tower remains standing despite the fact that the bomb had 1 kg of ammonium gelignite.

No information is available yet on who was responsible for the attack.

Locomotive Damaged

PY161933 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] A bomb blast has caused minor damange to locomotive No 3,021 of the Bio-Bio express of the Concepcion-Santiago line and a 30-centimeter break in the track at the town of (Paten), in Chiguayante, Concepcion. Special Carabineros personnel found that the bomb, which was planted by unknown individuals, had 500 grams of ANFO [ammonium nitrate, fuel oil blasting agent] and aluminum powder. The shockwave caused minor damage and no one was injured. The blast caused a short interruption in services of the Bio-Bio express. After an inspection, the train resumed its trip to Santiago. The action was reported to the third criminal judge of Concepcion and the regional authorities.

Colombia

People's Militias Movement Attacks U.S. Firms

PA1804214688 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Report by Felix DeBedout]

[Text] One of the most violent terrorist attacks in the past few days in Medellin occurred last night: In a 20-minute period, seven bombs exploded in different parts of the city, causing losses of more than 7 million pesos.

Most businesses attacked are U.S. multinationals. The worst damaged were Texaco of Colombia, Sudameris Bank, and the branches of Croydon and Goodyear.

Medellin Mayor William Jaramillo said the terrorist wave can only be confronted by a joint action by the authorities and the citizens:

[Begin recording] The citizens themselves must contribute to security. The public order forces are doing their part. Of course, that is their responsibility, but we cannot achieve security without full cooperation from the citizens and if there is no inclination or determination to regain peace. [end recording]

The People's Militias movement claimed responsibility for last night's attacks, which were aimed at rejecting U.S. meddling in Central America.

UP Says Peasant Murders Follow Vietnam Pattern

PA151720 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0730 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 14 Apr (EFE)—The leftist Patriotic Union (UP) has said the mass murders of peasants, which have left more than 100 dead in Colombia since 20 February, follow a pattern applied during the Vietnam war.

Today Jaime Corena, member of the UP National Coordinating Board, told EFE that the "tactic" of mass murders is consistent with a national security doctrine. He added that the "extermination of people was used in Vietnam to force the emigration of peasants, who are considered the guerrillas' social base." [passage omitted]

The UP leader said: "Official reports blaming the ultraright and drug traffickers for the dirty war are only partially true, because those two groups hide the participation of military personnel of various ranks in murders and massacres."

Yesterday UP President Bernardo Jaramillo said peasants have the right to organize themselves in armed self-defense groups in the face of the impunity with which paramilitary groups act. Today the UP offered to the government its help in unmasking the masterminds of peasant massacres.

UP Leader Considering Calling General Strike

PA172130 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Report by Adriana Larota]

[Text] This afternoon Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa, leader of the Patriotic Union [UP], urged all the country's democratic groups to discuss the dirty war and the possibility of a national strike in defense of the right to life.

The UP asked its representatives in all regions to attend a meeting to discuss the reorganization of its cadres, analyze the results of the 13 March elections, and discuss ways to face the wave of violence plaguing the country.

Bernardo Jaramillo commented on the conclusions that might be reached at the meeting:

[Begin recording] First, this is a meeting of the country's most important forces to discuss the dirty war. Second, we will call for a great national strike to defend the right to life, which would be a forceful way of counteracting the activities of the paramilitary groups. Third, we will discuss the legitimate right to defense that all Colombians should enjoy. We believe we must apply this right, because the state is not guaranteeing this constitutional right. [end recording]

11 More Murdered Peasants Found in Uraba

PA172113 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Antioquia Governor Fernando Paneso has reported that the bodies of 11 more peasants were found in the Uraba region. The victims were among the many massacred or kidnapped by unidentified individuals in (Punta Coquitos) last Monday. The 11 bodies were found in (Cano Nicuro), Currulao jurisdiction. This increases the number of murders in Uraba this week to more than 20.

Ecuador

Minister on Arrest of Alfaro Lives Members

PA161640 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] This afternoon Government and Justice Minister Heinz Moeller stated in a news conference that the police have arrested three alleged Alfaro Lives members. According to Moeller, the people were arrested in a house in northern Quito, where material related to the guerrilla movement was also found. Minister Heinz Moeller noted that one of the people arrested is tied to United Left Deputy Washington Vaca's report that strange people have been watching his house during the past few days.

[Begin Moeller recording] In a joint police and government action, Herman Goretti Losa Ati, 22, who had a false identification card with the name Raul Zambrano Vega, was arrested. Deputy Washington Vaca had reported that Zambrano Vega was the person who was watching his house. By coincidence, Deputy Vaca lives in the same neighborhood where the Peruvian chancery is located. Obviously, we had to follow up on reports made by a national legislator about an area where a neighboring country's embassy was located.

Losa Ati was taken to the criminal investigation office and interrogated by investigators who determined that his true name was Herman Goretti Losa Ati. He is the brother of Alejandrina Losa Ati, who was arrested with other Alfaro Lives members after they attacked the (?San Golfito) bank in 1986.

With the information gathered during our investigations, we were able to locate Anatalio Homero Salas in the airport area. Salas lives there with two other Alfaro Lives members. Early this morning we carried out an efficient, clean operation and captured Maria Clara Iriguren Leon, 45, who had two false identification cards with different names. Another rebel who says his name is Pablo V. Iturralde was also arrested, and we are presently investigating him because he did not have an identification card. [end recording]